

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13171

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. BEN DE MESA, SENIOR BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL, HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY TO REITERATE STRONG GOP DESIRE TO STATION IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT CLARK. DE MESA INFORMED EMBOFF IN NOV. 6 TELECON THAT MALACANANG HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOME FILIPINOS GOP DID NOT WISH TO LEAVE PHILIPPINES POSSIBLY ABLE TO DEPART THRU CLARK AND AVOID TRAVEL CONTROLS.

2. DE MESA SAID HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN RECENT MEETING AT DFA ATTENDED BY PHIL MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS (PMLO) FROM BASES, AT WHICH TIME QUESTION OF ENTRY AND EXIT THRU BASES WAS DISCUSSED. AT THIS MEETING HE HAD OBTAINED COPIES OF PROPOSALS AND COUNTER-PROPOSALS ON MBA ARTICLE XI (IMMIGRATION) WHICH HAD BEEN TABLED IN COURSE 1971-72 US-RP MBA WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATIONS. DE MESA NOTED THAT US HAD ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO STATIONING IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT BASES. EMBOFF POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CONTINGENT

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UPON WORKING OUT OF APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTING

ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT MUTUAL AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED ON ART. IX OR ITS IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS AND THE SUBJECT OF THE ACUTAL PRESENCE AND DUTIES OF ON-BASE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HAD NEVER BEEN OPENED IN 1971-72 NEGOTIATIONS.

3. DE MESA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND FACT THAT TECHNICAL TALKS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE 1972, BUT THOUGHT TIME HAD COME TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE. HE HAD, IN FACT, ASKED COL. OLEGARIO, CLARK PMLO, TO PROVIDE HIM WITH DATA ON FREQUENCY OF MAC FLIGHTS AND DAILY PASSENGER LOADS SO THAT THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO STATION AT CLARK COULD BE ASCERTAINED. PMLO ALSO DIRECTED TO ARRANGE VISIT TO CLARK ON NOV. 8 FOR DE MESA SO THAT LATTER COULD REFRESH HIS MEMORY OF CLARK FLIGHTLINE SET-UP AND IMMIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS. (DE MESA VISITED CLARK ON SIMILAR TRIP IN NOVEMBER 1971).

4. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT DE MESA WAS PROCEEDING RATHER PRECIPITATELY AND THAT MATTER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL WITH DFA AND WITH EMBASSY BECAUSE MODAKUTUES OF STATIONING OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT CLARK WOULD HAVE TO BE MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOP AND USG AND LATTER HAD NUMBER OF SPECIFIC DISIDERATA OF ITS OWN IN IMMIRGATION AREA IT WOULD WISH TO ACHIEVE IN EXCHANGE FOR POSSIBLE EVENTUAL FULL AGREEMENT TO STATIONING GOP OFFICIALS AT BASES. EMBOFF POINTED OUT ALSO THAT GOP DEMARCHE ON IMMIGRATION WOULD HAVE TO BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON SO THAT EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN GUIDANCE. DE MESA AND EMBOFF WILL MEET TOMORROW FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES DE MESA APPROACH PROVIDES GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TECHNICALITIES OF ARTICLE XI WITH RELEVANT GOP AGENCY. PRESUMABLY, HE HAS OBTAINED COPY OF US PROPOSAL (STATE 075315), IF NOT, EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE ONE. EMBASSY WILL ALSO DISCUSS NEED FOR GOP RELAXATION ITS ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS FOR US MBA PERSONNEL. RE SPECIFICS OF EVENTUAL STATIONING GOP IMMIGRATION OFFICALS
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AT CLARK OF SUBIC, PROVIDING AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON ARTICLE XI AND IMPLEMENTING NOTE, EMBASSY WILL STRESS THAT HIGHLY DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS RE OFFICE SPACE, PRIVILEGES, DUTIES, NUMBER OF PERSONNEL, ETC., WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BEFORE STATIONING CAN TAKE PLACE.

6. REQUEST COMMENTS AND/OR CONCURRENCE ON PROPOSED EMBASSY APPROACH.

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